

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] Usually, in an electronic coin checker, the examined coin is guided by a coin distributor either into one or more acceptance shafts or even into a return shaft, depending on whether certain acceptance criteria are met. This occurs via deflection units, such as flaps for example, which are driven by electromagnets. Generally, a device for detecting the passage of a coin through a coin shaft is arranged in the acceptance shaft below the deflection unit. The device for detecting the passage of a coin through a coin shaft, e.g. a light barrier, checks the presence of the accepted coin and sends a corresponding signal to a connected evaluation unit if a coin has passed into the light barrier ~~or respectively~~ and/or out again of the light barrier. When the coin enters the light barrier, the evaluation unit interrupts the triggering of the electromagnet[[,]] such that the deflection unit (e.g. flap) assumes its rest position again and, when the coin exits from the light barrier, generates the credit signal.

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] In coin-operated machines which have a coin distributor, attempts are repeatedly made to achieve credit signals fraudulently by suspending the coins being ~~suspended on threads and these coins then being trying to withdrawn again the suspended coins~~ after they have been dipped into the light barrier. If ~~the a coin~~[[,]] ~~when it~~ that is dipped into the light barrier[[,]] is ~~still~~ located in the region of the flap, ~~such a~~ manipulation is easily possible since the flap is prevented from reaching its rest position by the coin. Therefore, ~~the way back is an exit path for the coin~~ is kept open by the coin itself hanging on the thread.

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] One solution to this problem consists in arranging the light barrier so far below the flap that the latter can reach its rest position ~~again when~~ by the time the coin dips into the light barrier (because the light barrier lies more than the diameter of a coin below the flap). Withdrawing the coin is then reliably prevented by the closed flap.

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] However, often the space available below the flap is not sufficient to ~~thus~~ achieve the necessary spacing between the deflection unit (flap) and the device for detecting the passage of a coin (~~[[in]]~~ the light barrier of the prior art). ~~For this purpose there is a known way of~~ Another solution for preventing manipulation includes providing a light barrier arrangement with which the direction in which the coin dips into the light barrier and leaves it again can also be determined. This is possible for example by means of two light barriers arranged one behind the other. In this way, however, the problem of a lack of installation space is possibly made even greater such that the expert is in practice often obliged, in order to optimize installation space, to make concessions to safety requirements.

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

[0012] One embodiment provides for a first and a second device for detecting the passage of a coin, the direction of a coin along a coin path in at least one coin shaft being capable of being detected from the signals of the beam receivers. Here the first device is disposed on the displaceable deflection member and the second device is arranged upstream or downstream in respect of the coin path. ~~It is advantageous to accommodate the~~ The second device can be positioned downstream of the first device (i.e. generally below the first device), since in this way a manipulation from outside is made ~~more~~ difficult in that the second light barrier is protected by the displaceable deflection member.

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] In particular in this variant having two devices for detecting the passage of a coin (as well as the direction), the present invention is useful since it makes it possible to provide two devices directly in the region of the deflection unit. Here the spacing of these devices is also no longer dependent on the size of the deflection unit; it is no longer necessary, e.g., to attach one device for detecting the passage of a coin above the deflection unit and one device below the deflection unit (the disadvantage of this is that the spacing between the two devices would then possibly be more than the diameter of

one coin, and this would lead to additional manipulation or error possibilities: if two coins run behind one another through the same coin shaft in quick succession, a reversal of direction of a single coin could be falsely assumed in this case although in reality two coins were involved).

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] An embodiment provides for the device for detecting the passage of a coin to be designed as an arrangement of light barriers. Here the emitter ~~is preferably~~ can be designed as an infrared light-emitting diode and the beam receiver as an infrared light receiver. The beam deflector is to be designed either as a mirror which deflects a beam of light one or more times, or as a deflecting prism which deflects a beam of light at least once, but ~~preferably~~ can also deflect multiple times (e.g. deflecting twice with a total angle of 180°). Additional types of radiation can moreover be utilized as the radiation, e.g. visible light, laser light, ultraviolet light.

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] Here an embodiment provides for the beam deflector to be integrated into the deflection device or the flap to be designed so that, when the coin shaft is not blocked by a coin or the like and the radiant power of the emitter remains the same, the quantity of radiation received by the beam receiver remains substantially the same.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] ~~It is essential that the~~ The beam deflector, here the biprism 6b, ~~[[is]]~~ can be secured to the displaceable member, here the deflection device 3. By this means, the above-described advantages of the invention relating to small installation space are exploited. It must also be noted that the beam deflector 6b is so designed that, when the coin shaft 4 is not blocked by a coin 7 and the radiant power of the emitter 6a remains the same, the quantity of radiation received by the beam receiver 6c remains substantially the same. The reason for this is that the translational movement of the deflection device 3 (due to the electromagnet 11) is in line with the emitter 6a or respectively the beam receiver 6c as well as the radiation emitted or received by same. The radiation is so

bundled in the beam control that the alteration in spacing (depending on whether the deflection device 3 is flush with the wall 10b or not) has practically no influence on the quantity of radiation arriving at the beam receiver.

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

[0030] Alternatively, other displaceable deflection members ~~obviously~~ are possible, for example pivotable flaps. As the beam deflector can here be used (just as in the above deflection unit) also single or multiple mirrors or prisms. In the case of a pivotable flap, a curvature optical system is to be provided if necessary in order to make the light intensity arriving at the beam receiver the same, independently of the position of the flap.

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] Because the second device 8 lies below, (i.e. downstream relative to the coin path 9 in coin shaft 4) this device is protected by the deflection device 3 when the latter is not flush with the wall 10b. Both device 6 and device 8 (especially the beam receivers 6c or 8c) are connected to an evaluation unit which is not shown. If a coin checker is arranged above the deflection device 3 to verify suitable coins, the deflection device 3 travels back into the substantially flush position relative to the boundary wall 10b, such that a coin 7 can run through coin shaft 4 along coin path 9. In this process the evaluation unit initially receives an interrupt signal from beam receiver 6c and then from beam receiver 8c. From this sequence, the direction of the coin can be clearly derived (i.e. its correct passage). According to this, on the basis of the evaluation unit, which is also connected to the electromagnet 11 for driving the deflection device, the deflection device is moved back into the position where it is not flush with the boundary wall 10b, so that it is not possible to withdraw a coin which is selected with the credit signal. For particularly fault-free functioning of the arrangement shown in Figs. 2a to 3, ~~it is advantageous~~ if the spacing between beam receiver 6c and beam receiver 8c in the direction of the coin path 9 ~~[[is]]~~ can be less than the diameter of the smallest valid coin, since in this way malfunctions due to a plurality of small coins falling through in quick succession can be prevented.